

1       SJR115  
2       213747-2  
3       By Senators Allen, Singleton, Reed, Albritton, Barfoot,  
4       Beasley, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,  
5       Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Holley, Jones,  
6       Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,  
7       Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Smitherman,  
8       Stutts, Waggoner, Whatley and Williams  
9       RFD:  
10      First Read: 27-APR-21

1 SJR115

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4 ENROLLED, SJR115,

5 HONORING JUDGE JOHN H. ENGLAND, JR. FOR PROFESSIONAL  
6 ACHIEVEMENTS.

7  
8 WHEREAS, it is a privilege to highly honor  
9 Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court Judge John H. England, Jr. for  
10 serving on the judicial bench for 28 dedicated years; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge England was born in Uniontown,  
12 Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, while attending Tuskegee University, the  
14 Civil Rights Movement inspired Judge England to pursue a  
15 career in law; in 1969, he graduated with a Bachelor of  
16 Science Degree in Chemistry; thereafter, he attended The  
17 University of Alabama Law School but was only able to complete  
18 one year before being drafted into the United States Army  
19 during the Vietnam War, where he served as a Military  
20 Policeman for two years; after his service, he returned to The  
21 University of Alabama Law School, where he earned his Law  
22 Degree in 1974; after graduation, he worked as an attorney,  
23 and in 1985, along with former State Senator Charles Steele,  
24 was one of two of the first African Americans elected to the  
25 Tuscaloosa City Council, where he served two terms, chairing

1 the Finance and Community Development Committees; Judge  
 2 England was appointed to the Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court  
 3 in 1993 and was elected to a full term the following year; in  
 4 1999, he received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from  
 5 Tuskegee University; that same year, he was appointed by the  
 6 Governor to the Alabama Supreme Court, where he served until  
 7 2001; he then returned to the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa  
 8 County in 2001; and

9 WHEREAS, some of Judge England's additional  
 10 incredible achievements over the years include being the first  
 11 African American University of Alabama Law School graduate to  
 12 witness his three children, John H. England, III, U.S.  
 13 Magistrate Judge for the Northern District in Alabama; April  
 14 England Albright, Civil Rights Attorney in Atlanta, Georgia;  
 15 and Christopher England, Assistant City Attorney in  
 16 Tuscaloosa, member of the Alabama House of Representatives,  
 17 and Chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, also graduate  
 18 from The University of Alabama Law School; serving on the  
 19 Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama; being the  
 20 first African American to have a dormitory on The University  
 21 of Alabama's campus named after him, John H. England, Jr.  
 22 Hall, on February 8, 2019, where The University of Alabama  
 23 President Stuart R. Bell stated, "It is a privilege to  
 24 announce the naming of our newest freshman residence hall in  
 25 tribute to the Honorable Judge John England, Jr., whose life

1 of influence has made a lasting impact on this community, The  
2 University of Alabama, and citizens of the entire state. Judge  
3 England serves as a wonderful example to others, and his  
4 insights, experience, and untiring compassion for UA students,  
5 faculty, staff, and the citizens of Alabama reflect the  
6 mission of the UA System to impact others through excellence  
7 in teaching, research, and service"; being inducted into the  
8 Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame in 2006; serving as State  
9 President of Alabama New South Coalition; serving on the Board  
10 of Directors of various organizations, including Boys and  
11 Girls Clubs, Barnes Branch YMCA, Community Services Program of  
12 West Alabama, Theatre Tuscaloosa, and many others; and serving  
13 as a Trustee and as a member of the male chorus at his church,  
14 Bailey Tabernacle, C.M.E. Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge England has stated, "I have come to  
16 value that you can learn something from any person, if you are  
17 listening. Many people who came before my court have later  
18 attested, 'I was heard', including some individuals I had  
19 ruled against"; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge England has seven grandchildren, Ty,  
21 Jay, Jelani, Autumn, Alexandria, Kennedi, and Christopher,  
22 Jr.; and

23 WHEREAS, for nearly three decades, Judge England has  
24 served diligently, bringing justice into many people's lives;

1 a remarkable man, he is indeed an inspiration and a natural  
2 leader; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Tuscaloosa County Circuit  
5 Judge John H. England, Jr. is warmly honored and commended for  
6 his 28 years of committed service, and this resolution hereby  
7 serves as a tribute to him with utmost gratitude and  
8 admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued  
9 success and happiness during his retirement.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR115  
Senate 27-APR-21  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 06-MAY-21

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By: Senator Allen